

Middle Norwegian

Middle Norwegian (Norwegian Bokmål: *mellomnorsk*; Norwegian Nynorsk: *mellomnorsk*, *millomnorsk*) is a form of the Norwegian language that was spoken from 1350 up to 1550 and was the last phase of Norwegian in its original state, before Danish replaced Norwegian as the official written language of what is now Norway.

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Language history

The Black Death came to Norway in 1349, killing over 60% of the population.^[2] This probably precipitated the current process of language development.

The language in Norway after 1350 until about 1550 is generally referred to as Middle Norwegian. During this period the language went through several changes: morphological paradigms were simplified, including the loss of grammatical cases and the levelling of personal inflection on verbs. An epenthetic "e" gradually appeared before the nominative -r ending from Old Norse to ease pronunciation. This made terms such as hestr change to hester.^[3] The -r disappeared from the language all together, and so did the epenthetic in most dialects, but some still retain this vowel.^[4] A vowel reduction also took place, in some dialects, including in parts of Norway, reducing many final unstressed vowels in a word to a common "e".

The phonemic inventory also underwent changes. The dental fricatives, represented by the letters þ and ð, disappeared from Norwegian, either by merging with their equivalent stop consonants, represented by t and d, respectively, or by being lost altogether.

Danicisation of the written language

During the 15th century, Middle Norwegian gradually ceased to be used as a written language. At the end of the 16th century, Christian IV of Denmark (1577-1648) decided to revise and translate into Danish Magnus VI of Norway's (1238-1280) 13th century Landslov "Country Law", which was originally written in Old West Norse. In 1604 the revised version of the law was introduced. The translation of this law marks the final transition to Danish as the administrative language in Norway.^[5]

Middle Norwegian	
Middle Norwegian: <i>nornskt mál</i> ^[1] <div>Bokmål / Nynorsk: <i>mellomnorsk</i><div>Landsmål: <i>millomnorsk</i></div></div>	
Region	Kingdom of Norway (872–1397), Kalmar Union, Denmark–Norway
Era	14th–16th century
Language family	<div>Indo-European<ul style="list-style-type: none">Germanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">North Germanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">West Scandinavian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Norwegian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Middle Norwegian</div>
Early forms	<div>Proto-Germanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proto-Norse<ul style="list-style-type: none">Old Norse<ul style="list-style-type: none">Old West Norse<ul style="list-style-type: none">Old Norwegian</div>
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	<i>None</i>

References

1. "Bokmålsordboka - Nynorskordboka" (http://ordbok.uib.no/perl/ordbok.cgi?OPP=norsk&ant_bo kmaal=5&ant_nynorsk=5&begge=+&ordbok=begge). *ordbok.uib.no*.
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3. VGSkole (2018). "Norske Målføre" (<http://www.vgskole.net/teachers/norsk/spraak/maalfore/maalfore.php#svarabhakti>). *VGSkole.no*. Retrieved 26 October 2019.
4. Sigurd Brokke (2011). "Vallemål" (<https://vallemal.no/>). Valle Mållag. Retrieved 15 November 2019.
5. Det norske samlaget 2007. "Språk i Norge på 1500-tallet" (<https://stovnernorsk2st4d.wikispaces.com/Spr%C3%A5k+i+Norge+p%C3%A5+1500+-+tallet>). *stovnernorsk2st4d.wikispaces.com*. Retrieved 4 April 2016.

External links

- Dinara, Alieva. (2013) The adnominal genitive constructs in middle norwegian (in norwegian). (https://www.duo.uio.no/bitstream/handle/10852/37288/Alieva_Master.pdf?sequence=1&isAllo wed=y)

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